

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent No. 6,738,951 B1 to Weiss et al. (referred to herein as 'Weiss').

At the time the invention was made, conventional format converters - such as the converter taught by Weiss - were atomic in nature in that the conversion process was indivisible: it afforded no opportunity for a user (such as a web designer) to affect the conversion process, eventual structure or organization of individual parts in a converted document.

Weiss specifically describes an electronic document delivery system that includes a limited resource client machine (e.g., a handheld computer) and a transcoder proxy. The transcoder proxy includes a set of rules for monolithically translating electronic documents from a first digital format to a braille format. The motivation for Weiss' invention is simple: locating the rules set within a transcoder proxy reduces resource requirements for the client machine (see the Abstract and col. 5, lines 34-41).

Weiss omits numerous elements of the claimed invention, such as the three elements listed on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicant also submits that Weiss also does not teach the 'selecting' portions of the claims as the Office Action asserts. More specifically, the client machine of Weiss selects a Braille language and a set of rules for format conversion to the Braille language. It does not select a sub-rendering sequence or select a basic rendering component (both of which are components of the document) as recited. With these two selecting portions of the independent claims not taught by Weiss, that leaves five steps not taught by the reference - a generous stretch for any obviousness rejection.

The Office Action, however, claims it would have been obvious to have 'tagged' all or part of a document in some way as this would have been a good way to both document and make changes to the original components. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Firstly, Weiss does not provide any motivation to do so. In contrast, Weiss attempts to simplify transcoding so as to reduce resource requirements for a client machine operated by a user. The present invention would potentially add complexity to both the transcoder proxy and the client machine. A reference must be taken in its entirety, including those portions that teach away from the claims and argue against obviousness (MPEP 2141.02). Weiss cannot be extended to reject a more complex system when the goal of his invention is simplification.

In addition, the prior art does not permit the claimed invention and that which the Office Action purports as obvious. As mentioned above, conventional format converters were not capable of tagging individual elements of a document or processing individual elements of a tagged document. Weiss does not remedy the lack of such capability. A proposed obviousness modification cannot change the principle of operation of a reference (MPEP 2143.01).

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Weiss cannot be extended to suggest independent claims 1, 5 and 10, and that the independent claims are allowable.

Claims 2-4 and 6-9 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 5 and are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims.

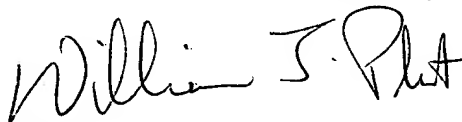
Withdrawal of the rejection of under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Response is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. SUN1P706).

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Plut", is written over the printed name.

William J. Plut

Limited Recognition under 37 C.F.R. §10.9(b)

P.O. Box 778

Berkeley, CA 94704-0778

650-961-8300